

May 2016

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

THE NEWHALL PRESS

Pastor Column May 2016

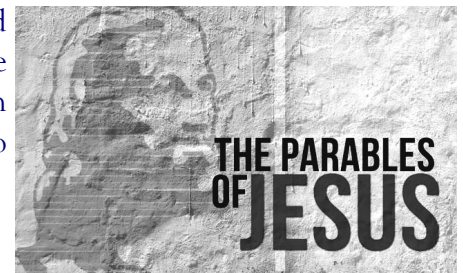
Recently I was given two different articles about the growth of mega churches and the shrinking of mainline denominational churches. One comes from the President of Princeton Theological Seminary, the largest seminary in our denomination. The other one is from a researcher and analyst who comes to some interesting conclusions. (See the article on Page 4)

Each explores reasons that people are choosing to be part of mega churches which are heavily staffed and thus do not require the work that running a church as a family does, with all the involvement that a family church requires of its members. The article also suggests that we not try to become a mega church but recognize our value in God's Kingdom.

We are firmly a family church, one in which we ask participation of everyone just as you would in a nuclear or extended family. That is the model of the early church found in Acts 2. People rub each other, sometimes the wrong way, but other times in loving and protective ways.

Because we are family, we are always looking forward to everyone participating in every event of the church. Of course, that is a silly idea. We are busy people with many demands on our lives. It truly is only an ideal, but one that is worthy of holding before us.

That is why I have championed the summer format of asking you as "members of the family" with your relationship and experiences with our Lord, to share that from the pulpit. This summer the topic will be: *Eye Witness Accounts of the Parables (first person accounts either as a character in the parable or creating a fictional character observing the parable)* There are three things I would expect from such a sermon. First that the scriptural account of your chosen parable be fully described; second that the effect on the character be creatively described, and thirdly that the character provide us with an interpretation of what such a parable might mean for us as we go about our daily lives. As in the past I will gladly provide a possible list of parables (with a first come/first serve basis) and gladly work with anyone who has the courage to be our preacher. There are ten weeks of these sermons from 7/3/16 to 9/4/16.



In His Grip,
Pastor Bill

May Events:

YOUTH SUNDAY / CONFIRMATION

May 1

DODGER DAY

May 1

PW MOTHERS' DAY TEA

May 7 11:30 AM

MOTHERS' DAY

May 8

HUNTINGTON LIBRARY OUTING

May 14

PENTECOST

May 15

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS

May 15 & 22

MISSIONS SUNDAY

May 22

STANDING TOGETHER (Life Academy)

May 22 4:00

MEMORIAL DAY

May 30

Recurring Church Events:

BAND REHEARSAL

Thursdays 6:00 PM

BOOK BUDDIES

2nd Thursdays 4:00 PM

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursdays 7:30 PM

COMMUNION

1st Sundays 9:30 & 11:00 AM

HANDCRAFTERS

2nd & 4th Tues. 10:00 AM

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Last Tuesday 6:30 PM

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays 7:30 AM

MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY

Fridays 11:00 AM

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

4th Sundays

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES

See Schedule Page 7

RECYCLING (For Camp Scholarships)

1st Sunday of each quarter

RING TONES REHEARSAL

Sundays 2:00 PM

STANDING TOGETHER

2nd Wednesdays 7:00 PM

May only—See Above

TGIF (Children's Program)

Fridays 6:00 PM

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays 6:00 PM

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Leadership Meetings:

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

1st Mondays 7:00 PM

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE

1st Mondays 7:00 PM

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE

1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

DEACONS

1st Mondays 7:00 PM

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

1st Tuesdays 7:00 PM

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

1st Thursdays 7:00 PM

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

1st Fridays 8:00 AM

SESSION

3rd Tuesdays 7:00 PM

STEPHEN MINISTRY

4th Wednesdays See Calendar

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

2nd Tuesdays 10:00 AM

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

1st Tuesdays 7:00 PM

YOUTH COMMITTEE

2nd Thursdays 7:00 PM

Upcoming Events:

NEW MEMBERS' INSTALLATION

June 5

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK

June 5 to 12

MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY

June 12 10:00 AM

CHURCH 125TH BIRTHDAY PARTY AND

DEACON'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL

June 12 11:30 AM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 20-24

SUMMER MAGIC (At the Barnes')

June 26, July 31, August 28

SANDY & FRED MCINTOSH PARTY

July 3

PW SYNOD SUMMER CONFERENCE

July 15-17

FAMILY CAMP AT SEA

September 30-October 3

ADVENT DINNER

December 4

PW CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

December 10



The Church Life Committee promotes fellowship and fun activities for the church family by providing a variety of church, community, cultural and special events throughout the year.

MAY BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S

Hilde DeBord	May 5
Cathy Johnson	May 1
Jim Didrickson	May 6
Richard Kost	May 25
Ed Bolden	May 26



LADIES NIGHT OUT

Last Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm.



May 31st – Maria Bonita

20655 Soledad Canyon Rd.; Canyon Country

Won't you join us?

HANDCRAFTERS

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (May 10 & 24), at 10am, people gather in the Evans Room to share their crafting skills, their interests, and their accomplishments. We are the *Handcrafters*, and everyone is welcome!



BOOK BUDDIES

Book Buddies will discuss "The Chosen" by Chaim Potok on Thursday, May 12th at 4:00 p.m. An unlikely friendship develops between two boys in 1940s Brooklyn. One boy is a secular Jew with an intellectual father; the other boy is a brilliant son and heir to a Hasidic rebbe.

Pam Trammell, 22254 Oxford Lane, Santa Clarita, is hostess for the discussion and salad supper. RSVP: Pam 661-607-4632



Church Family Camp at Sea

September 30th – October 3rd

Join in the Church Family fun on this 3-day cruise aboard the Carnival *Inspiration* to Ensenada. We will board in Long Beach on Friday afternoon and return early Monday morning. Your Church Life Committee has activities and fun planned for everyone in the family; an all-ship scavenger hunt, a cabin door decorating contest, morning devotional walks on the ship, Sunday worship and communion on World Communion Sunday, a featured speaker on strengthening family ties, group dining, games, fun, fun, fun! Sign-ups for our reserved block of cabins at the discounted Group rates will go through May 4th. You must pay your \$100 deposit per person to our AAA travel agent Claudia Mariscal by that deadline. She can be reached at 661-288-5553 or go into the Newhall AAA office. Church Life is happy to subsidize \$100 per church member as incentive to be a part of this family fun event. That can bring the cost of the cruise down to as low as \$200 per person! Stop by the Church Life table on the patio to get more information. You will not want to miss this! Remember, deposits must be confirmed by May 4th.



The Huntington Library – Saturday May 14th. The Huntington Library is one of the world's great cultural centers. Join us to tour the beautiful botanical gardens, extensive library, and distinguished art collections. We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. to enjoy a continental breakfast before carpooling to Pasadena. After touring the museum and the grounds, we will regroup to share lunch either at the Huntington or at a restaurant nearby. Return to the church will be approximately 4:30 p.m. The Huntington has something for everyone! Ticket prices are \$20 per person. Sign-ups will continue through May 8th. Stop by the Church Life table on the patio to reserve your spot.

MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE TRIP REMEMBERED

On Sunday April 3rd, First Presbyterian Church of Newhall members and friends traveled to Los Angeles to experience the Museum of Tolerance, also known as the Holocaust museum. About 11:30, 21 of us carpoled from the church to West LA, for an educational & moving experience.

The Museum of Tolerance (MOT), is a multimedia museum designed to examine racism and prejudice around the world with a strong focus on the history of the Holocaust. It was opened in 1993, as the educational arm of the human rights organization, the Simon Wiesenthal Center. It also deals with atrocities in Africa, Cambodia and Latin America, along with issues like 9/11, bullying and hate crimes.

At 3:00 pm we were treated to a special lecture from a man who was a survivor of the Holocaust. His name is William Harvey. William was born May 20, 1924, in Berehove, Czechoslovakia, He was 19 in April 1944 when rifle-carrying soldiers banged on his family's door, giving them five minutes to pack. William grabbed his best coat and with his mother and two of his sisters, Margaret and Elizabeth, were led to the overcrowded ghetto in Beregszász, Hungary.

For an hour he spoke of his life and his incredible story of survival.

For his own success, and his survival, he credits his mother. "I was thinking about her when I wanted to give up. I was thinking about how hard she worked and how I had no right to quit," he said.

Now 90, William has been speaking at the Museum of Tolerance since 2006. He teaches people about the Holocaust as well as how to succeed in life.

To read his story, visit this website: http://www.jewishjournal.com/survivor/article/survivor_william_harvey

I encourage all of you to take the time to visit and study at this Museum of Tolerance.

Patrick Stokes

More people, looser ties

by David Eagle

THE SIZE OF the church attended by a typical Protestant in America has increased over the past few decades. According to the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, the number of megachurches (churches with more than 2,000 people in attendance at weekly worship) increased from fewer than 100 in 1970 to nearly 1,800 today. And according to the National Congregations Study, about 15 percent of Protestants in this country attend a megachurch—twice as many as did in 1998.

Megachurches are hardly a new phenomenon. The landscape of Protestantism has been dotted since the mid-19th century with very large churches—like Broadway Tabernacle in New York City, Temple Baptist in Philadelphia, Moody Church in Chicago, Angelus Temple in Los Angeles, and Second Baptist in Houston. All of these large congregations rose to prominence before 1930. The increase in popularity and prominence of megachurches is new, however. The reasons for the rise remains murky, but some guesses can be made.

One guess concerns one of the most important social trends of post-World War II America: the increased participation of women in the paid workforce. According to the Census Bureau, 57 percent of working-aged women participated in some form of paid work in 2013—up from about 35 percent in 1950. Among women who work, far more work full time than in the past. Meanwhile, most men are employed, and if employed they usually work full time. This means that in more and more marriages, both partners are spending more time at work than they did in previous decades.

What does this have to do with churches? A good deal. Churches are volunteer-driven organizations and need a plentiful supply of volunteer labor to function. The bulk of church volunteers come from the ranks of the married. If married people have less discretionary time at their disposal, then churches will feel a corresponding time crunch with volunteers. Think of it this way: a congregation with 100 married couples today has 1,000 fewer hours of potential volunteer labor to tap than it did in 1970.

Imagine that you are part of a busy couple, both working as accountants, and you are looking for a church to attend. If you

enter a church of a hundred people, it is likely that in a short time you will be asked to put your professional skills to work for the church. But if you were to walk into a church of 2,000, it is likely that the church already pays a bookkeeper to manage its finances, and you would face a lot less pressure to get involved. At the very least, you could more easily pick and choose your level of involvement.

Churches that survive and thrive in today's environment allow for the flexible participation of volunteers. The advantage of size lies in the ability to pay staff to do the things that require sustained commitment—things like bookkeeping, coordinating programs for children and youth, and planning and organizing services. Megachurches create a more hospitable environment for time-stressed people.

Some additional evidence suggests that the success of megachurches has to do with their ability to attract dual-earner couples. It should come as no surprise that dual-income households outearn their single-earner counterparts. If you double the number of hours available for paid employment, on average, household income will rise. Researchers with the National Congregations Study asked a representative sample of pastors to estimate the proportion of their congregation that earns more than \$100,000 per year (pastors tend to be very accurate in making such estimates). In congregations with 100 attenders, about 5 percent of the congregation fits in this category; in congregations with more than 3,000 attenders, 30 percent have high incomes.

One might object that this relationship derives merely from the fact that megachurches disproportionately exist in suburbs dominated by high-income families. But when comparisons are made between congregations across urban and suburban areas, this relationship continues to hold.

Another factor may be that families today have fewer children, which means it takes a larger church to form a critical mass of kids for youth groups and Sunday schools. Larger churches, because they have access to more resources than small churches, can also produce much more polished and professional programs. And success breeds success. As megachurches become ore pop-

ular, they come to define what success looks like, which leads in turn to more people copying their model.

Some observers have thought that megachurches, given their capacity to create extensive programs, have an unusual power to shape people's beliefs. In 1990, a writer in the *San Antonio News Express* argued that the megachurch "provides a total environment under a single sacred canopy" and worried that congregations of this size would become a "sealed bubble."

But the evidence above suggests that the popularity of megachurches is ore likely related to their inability to provide a "total environment." Families are pulled in multiple directions by the demands of work, childcare, housework, and leisure, and they want a place that won't make too many more demands. If anything, megachurches represent the loosening of religious bonds.

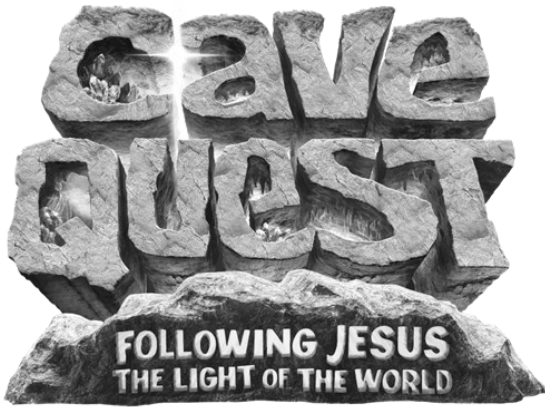
Nearly 120 years ago, the German sociologist Georg Simmel argued that organizations that exercise total control over individuals are necessarily small in size. If Simmel is right that large organizations have a harder time exercising control over individuals, then it makes sense that members of small churches attend church more frequently than members of megachurches. Large churches are more anonymous places—your comings and goings aren't noticed from week to week, and you may not face the same encouragement (or pressure) to attend.

It's probably equally true that if you are the sort of person who doesn't have the time or the interest to attend church every week, you might gravitate to a larger church. My research has found exactly this dynamic. Large-church attenders are significantly less likely to attend weekly than are their small-church counterparts. This pattern holds across denominations, which gives credence to the argument that size, independent of other factors, promotes lower levels of involvement. The fact that a larger share of Protestants attends big churches may say something about the loosening bonds of religion.

David Eagle is a postdoctoral research associate with the Clergy Health Initiative at the Center for Health Policy and Inequalities Re-

KIDS, KIDS, KIDS

The Children's Ministry Committee at First Presbyterian Church will invite children to EMBRACE the Word of God through worship, games, songs, and other activities; ENCOURAGE their spiritual growth to become closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ; and EQUIP them to go out into the world and share God's love.



Cave Quest
June 20-24
9:00am-12:30pm
Preschool (potty trained) to 6th grade
\$30/ child until June 19
After June 19th, it is \$50/child
Cost includes: t-shirt, CD, daily snack, games, Bible lesson, music, crafts and fun skit

VBS?
OH YES!!!

First Pres kids who bring a non-FPCN kid (who pays for the week) to VBS get a 50%

discount on registration.



We are looking for volunteers to donate their time that week or donate items we will need in order to keep our costs down.

CHILDREN-LED SERVICE—4/17/16

What a joy to be led in worship by our **awesome children**, from preschool through 6th Grade! From the Piano Prelude to the Postlude, performed by Marie Maaluf and Wyatt McCreery, the entire service (except for the message) was led by the children. Gus Balkcom led the Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession and Scripture Reading. The Children (Presby Players) helped Pastor Phil with announcements, statue style. Music was led by the Second Service Band plus Katie Ng and Marianne Meadows. The Children's Choir performed the anthem "Hosanna." Bibles were awarded to our kindergarteners and 4th Graders. (See photo below Mason Mehegan, Marley Mehegan, Marianne Meadows, McKayla Howerton and Madeline Howerton.)





The purpose of The Mission Committee, in order to further share the gospel of Jesus Christ, is to responsibly use the resources of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, wherever we find a neighbor in need. We are committed to meeting mission needs in our local community, across the nation, and globally, by sending money, food, clothing, volunteers, or whatever else is needed.

In a world where we read daily about conflict between Muslim and Christian, it is a testimony to the goodness of God that the members of Newhall Presbyterian Church and The Unity Center, the mosque in Newhall, California, have found the message of peace and love, preached by both their religions, the most powerful message of all.

Every second Wednesday of every month, for five years, members of the two congregations have met to discuss their respective faiths, examine their holy books, ponder on their similarities and differences, and pray for greater peace and religious tolerance in the community, the nation, and the world. But most of all, this group of men and women, who range in age from high school students to very senior citizens, have come together in fellowship. We have attended each other's special religious events, such as Ramadan dinners, Easter Sunday, and Ash Wednesday services. This fellowship has not been limited to church/mosque activities; we have also supported one another at funerals, prayed for one another in illness and accident, celebrated with one another at weddings, and met together for an occasional lunch or dinner. In short, we have become dear friends.

The increased understanding and appreciation both the Christian and Muslim members have gotten, from reading and discussing the Quran and the Bible, has been a wonderful blessing for all. As Christians, it has given us the knowledge and authority to speak to anti-Muslim hatred with truth and confidence. At the same time, the Muslim members have gained a new understanding of what the Bible actually says about Jesus, his preaching, and his experiences up to and including the crucifixion and resurrection. Finally, we have all come to understand that the God we worship, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, is the same God, whether we call him God or Allah, and we are all his children seeking him and worshiping him in the faith tradition through which he speaks to us.

~Written by Judy Reinsma

Ash Wednesday

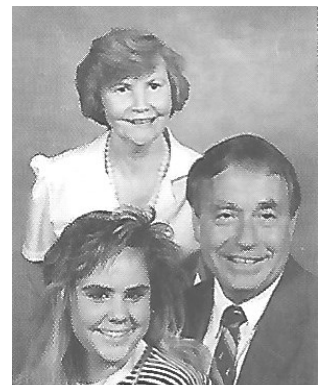
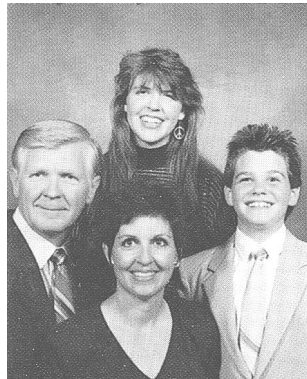


The May **Standing Together** meeting will be the Life Academy class at 4:00 p.m. On Sunday, May 22.



Just as we were preparing to print this newsletter, John Favalessa and some of the AMOR travelers returned home with this picture of what they accomplished this past weekend. (Some of the workers had to return home on Sunday so they could be at their other jobs on Monday morning.)

HISTORY QUIZ: Here are some more photos from our 1987 church directory. Guess who they are (two pictured are no longer with us.), then confirm your answers by peeking below. (Thank you Glenda Johnson for sharing your collection of church directories!)



History Quiz Answers:

John & Ann Barrett; Warren & Kathy Rakness & children Susan & Geoff; Jim & Sally Didrickson and daughters Susanna & Melissa; Les & Millie Tanner & daughter Stacey.

Little Shepherd's Nursery School

at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall



"Water Play and Popsicles"

Little Shepherd's is now enrolling for our Summer Program. This is a fun, outdoor program involving lots of water, art and creative play. It will be held in three sessions: July 12-14; July 19-21 and July 26-28.

Reserve your child's spot now by calling Miss Dawn at



Presbyterian Women, as forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit ourselves: To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the Church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

SAVE THE DATE!

Presbyterian Women of the Synod Summer Conference

Friday Afternoon July 15 - Sunday Morning July 17

Chapman University in Orange, CA

Theme - **"Reflecting Jesus: Lenses and Mirrors"** based on 1 Corinthians 13:2 (CEB)

"Now we see a reflection in a mirror, then we will see face to face. Now I know partially, but then I will know completely in the same way I have been completely known."

The Conference includes forums, workshops (one led by "our" Rev. Rosie Kwak), a Mercado, and sessions with Rev. Judy Siker, author of the 2016-2017 Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible study, and Rev. Eugenia Gamble, a well-known retreat leader.

\$235 Full Time (2 nights, 6 meals)

\$65 One Day (2 meals)

Scholarships are available. Contact Tina Pulliam or Beverly Stokes.

PW MISSION PROJECT:



Since December, 2015, at least 194 cans, jars, boxes and packages of Food plus a big bag of shampoo and lotions have been donated to "Help the Children" through the generosity of the members of First Pres Newhall. Thank you for your contributions! For the month of May, PW is focusing on **Mac 'n' Cheese** and boxes of instant rice packages such as **Rice-A-Roni** and **Hamburger Helper**. Please put your items on the shelves in the Evans Room. Your support of the PW Mission is greatly appreciated! Thank you!!

PW CIRCLES—ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

Elizabeth: Stephanie Linn (259-3914) - Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the Evans Room. Babysitting is provided.

Lois: Florence Craig (255-1389) - Meets second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

Lydia: Cathy Johnson (263-7193) - Meets first Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

Mary Martha: Nancy Spigelman (254-0319) & Sam Spigelman (312-7111) - Meets second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in various homes.

Rachel: Tiffany Aune (478-2056) - Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in various homes and shares a salad dinner.



The Worship and Music Committee will strive with God's guidance and grace, to create Christ-centered worship experiences, inspiring God's people as they respond to the Word proclaimed in prayer, glorious music, scripture, sacrament and message.

Getting To Know Him — Holy Spirit II by Sonja Tweedie

It was one year ago — Pentecost 2015 — when some of us began an extensive study of the third person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit. In preparation for this topic several members and friends were asked, “How do you recognize and use the Holy Spirit in your life?” Answers varied from “I don’t.” to “Every day; I couldn’t survive without him.” Some just looked confused.

In the October 2015 newsletter we shared that many reformed church members are often not aware of the Holy Spirit “working within us” as He is rarely a sermon topic. Yes, we sing responses which include his name and we celebrate Pentecost with red decorations and stoles, but He soon becomes merely a “walk on” in the drama we call life.

This year has been different; we have begun to know him. In the Holy Spirit, an Introduction, John Bevere wrote, “The Holy Spirit is truly amazing. Next to our salvation through Jesus Christ, he is the best gift we will ever receive.” We learned about his personhood from A. W. Tozer, “The Holy Spirit has will, intelligence, feeling, knowledge, sympathy and the ability to love, see, think, speak and desire: the same as any person.”

Jesus promised his followers that the Holy Spirit would come upon them to aid them with the task of bringing the name of Christ to all people; at our baptism we also received that same Holy Spirit to help us throughout our lives to be better followers of Christ and to grow his church. In Francis Chan’s Remembering the Forgotten God we learned that “no matter how close we may feel to another person, the potential for intimacy with the Holy Spirit is always greater because he lives inside us.” Chan also maintained that “The Holy Spirit was given to us to serve the people God has placed around us. If God cares enough about his church to give us this spirit-empowered ability shouldn’t we care enough about the church to use that gift for the same purpose?”

So much was learned this past year, but the miracle was what began happening on Sunday mornings and evenings in worship. On August 23rd, the praise band played and sang a beautiful piece called “Holy Spirit” and Sam’s lovely prayers often included the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit began appearing in sermons and responsive readings more often. One of Bill’s sermon series at the evening service was “Gifts of the Spirit.” We surely know of Phil’s intimacy with the spirit; how often has he repeated “Let the Spirit do what the Spirit’s gonna do!”? And just a few weeks ago he responded to a FB post about his excellent sermon, “I love when the Spirit does Spirit stuff.”

At the Officer’s Retreat in March, Bill introduced us to “Jesus’ Strategic Plan” with the scripture from Acts: 8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to all the earth.” These were, of course, Jesus’ words to his disciples, but they are meant for each of us as well.

The Holy Spirit is in the work we do to care for others through mission and Family Promise; He is in our prayers for those who are ill or suffering and in our relationships with our church family. He will make us strong in Christ Jesus and He will, through us, bring our church nearer to God’s Kingdom on earth. Embrace May 15th, our Pentecost celebration! Get to know the Holy Spirit and He will do wonders in your life and in the life of the church.



MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Days of worship drift past from week to week and year to year. We don't generally experience worship as individual parts, but as a blend of the whole. We are caught up in the overall experience of Sunday worship. But if we take a closer look at the design of the

service that looks so beautiful, as if one great painting, we realize that it takes each color and each brush stroke to create an inspiring landscape. On June 12th our Sunday worship will be a day to honor and be inspired by the color and brush strokes painted through music.

This service is a special opportunity for our Chancel Choir, Praise Band, Hand Bells and Instrumentalists to lead you in worship. Music lifts us up and brings us closer to a spiritual place. Our musicians dedicate their musical gifts and time to make your worship meaningful. Please join them on Sunday, June 12, at 10:00 a.m. to say a warm "Thank You" for all they do and to feel the Glory of God inspired by our wonderful singers and musicians.

Regards,
Connie Woodson , Music Director



The Youth Committee nurtures the Junior High and Senior High-aged youth as of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, and the community; by providing a Christ-centered program of worship, education, fellowship, and service in order to equip them with a framework in which they can realize their spiritual gifts and live a Christian life.

Thank you so much to everyone who prayed for our trip to San Francisco and supported us financially. It was an amazing experience and we have so much to share with you about it all. Our week was filled with service and fun. Thank you again for loving this ministry so much.



Don't forget to mark your calendar for May 1st to learn how great our kids did. Be sure to join us at church at either service for Youth Sunday. There, we will have pictures and stories all about our awesome trip.

At those services we will also recognize and honor the members of the Youth Confirmation Class who have been meeting for many week with Pastor Bill and their mentors, learning all about their faith and our church. Those who choose to do so will be accepted as full members of the church during the Youth Sunday Services.



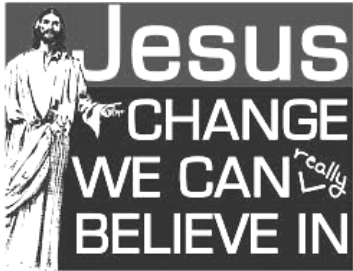
Confirmants met with Session on Tuesday, April 19th where they beautifully shared what they have been learning as well as their vision for our church. Pictured at left are (back row) Hannah Buhle, Amy Johnson, Chris Gilbert, and Zach Buhle, (front row) Van Johnson, Kyle Johnson and Alan Nereseko.

Clare Laueremann and Jared Redrow are not pictured.



The Adult Education Committee at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall encourages the congregation to mature in their Bible knowledge and practice of their Christian faith as disciples of Jesus Christ both personally and in community with other believers.

VOTING KINGDOM PRIORITIES By Roland Wrinkle



"Salvation is holistic- affecting persons, the social order, and the natural world itself....Salvation cannot be limited to forgiveness of sins or escaping judgment. In the Bible, salvation is a comprehensive reality, both future and present, and it affects every aspect of existence." J Richard Middleton, *A New Heaven And A New Earth*

The author of the book of *Genesis* makes the emphatic and unambiguous point that we are created in the image of God (the *imago dei*). This means that God intended and intends to use us as his reflection onto all of creation; that He uses us as earthly agents to bring about

heavenly plans. Jesus not only repeatedly (so much that it would be pretty hard to miss it) proclaimed the Kingdom of God *here on earth* (not in heaven) but that He was actually ushering that Kingdom in right then and there (to be fully realized upon His return). So...How should that affect our behavior? Here, I only want to explore the more limited question of how our vocation and commission to bring about God's Kingdom on earth operates, *to set our priorities*. Where should we concentrate our efforts? Our attention? Our concerns? Read the following (worldwide¹) annual death statistics and see how they may, or may not, inform your setting of Kingdom priorities².

- 8.1 million **Disease**
- 7 million children die each year (3.1 million of **malnutrition**)
- 7 million **Heart disease**
- 6.2 million **Stroke**
- 1.6 million **HIV/AIDS**
- 1.5 million **Cancer**
- 1.4 million **Diabetes**
- 1.3 million **Traffic accidents**
- 1.2 million **Prematurity**
- 500,000 **War** (in 2008) down from 5.5 million in WWII
- 360,000 **Gun violence**
- 32,700 **Terrorist attacks**

While deaths caused by terrorist attacks make up one half of one 100,000th of one percent (.00052) of all causes, American voters say that terrorism is the fourth most important issue for them and they are split 50/50 between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as to who can best protect us from terrorist attacks. They are reading a different bible than I am. One last statistic. A recent study has demonstrated that people have a tendency to project their own beliefs onto God, making their view of God a picture that is indeed an image of themselves³. **That gets it precisely backwards:** "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over [creation]'" (Genesis 1:26). What are God's priorities? Those should be ours as well.

¹God tends to dabble once in a while outside of America.

²Both the Old and New Testaments, by the way, are pretty big on statistics. In fact, the fourth of the five books of the Torah is named for its statistical content: *Numbers*.

³The study was conducted by Nicholas Epley and associates at the University of Chicago, and published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.



The Stewardship Committee will strive to build stewardship disciples of our church family by: *transforming the hearts of believers to reflect the image of Christ*, to become generous “as Christ is generous in being rich toward God” in the stewardship of all our gifts; to empower God’s Kingdom work to be fully staffed, funded and shared throughout our community, country and world; and, as a committee, to monitor the fiscal responsibilities of our church ministry.

SPEAKING OF STEWARDSHIP

If you are one of the FPCN family who is searching for a way to serve the church, please consider a visit to a meeting of the Stewardship Committee. We would welcome you with no strings attached. Get a feel for how all things financial work in and for our church, and perhaps consider joining the committee. I am a testament to the fact that you don’t have to be ‘good with numbers’ to contribute. All you need is a willingness to learn and a heart to help.

The Stewardship Committee meets on the second Tuesday morning of each month in Bill’s office at 10:00. Please email or call me for further information.

Sue Stanger, Elder

661-255-1626

sue@suestanger.com



The Outreach Committee is called by our Heavenly Father to extend the hospitality that we find in our fellowship to the community, to visitors, and to new members, in order to draw them into the family of Christian faith at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall.

New Members Class this month May 15th & 22nd

Everyone already “belongs” at First Presby Newhall - but maybe you are ready to make it “official.”

The dates are set and the Outreach Committee is getting ready for the spring New Members Class. The class dates are Sundays May 15th and 22nd with the installation before the congregation on June 5th. The classes are informal and led by Pastor Bill. There is no obligation to become a member, but if you choose to, you will be received into this family of faith before the congregation on Sunday June 5th.

Sign up at the Fellowship table with Lorraine King on Sunday morning, call or email Sandy at the church office 661-259-0555, churchoffice@presby-newhall.org, or contact John Favalessa, Elder of Outreach at favalessa@yahoo.com.

One of the distinctive characteristics of Christian faith is that it is shared...in community in the company of others. In Matt 18:20 Jesus states, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them”. Paul described the church as “The Body of Christ”. No one person is the whole body, each is a part. We need each other’s gifts to complement our own. Membership means we are all necessary parts of the whole. Membership also professes the kind of commitment that God looks for from us in our relationships.

- Sponsored by the Outreach Committee

First Presbyterian Church of Newhall
24317 N. Newhall Ave.
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Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship 11:00 a.m.



Deadline for the June Newsletter: May 15, 2016

Thank you for your articles and
input to the newsletter.

Special thanks to Ellie and Steve Fuller, who faithfully prepare newsletter for mailing.

The Newhall Press

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Web Site: <http://www.presby-newhall.org>

Pastor: Bill Barnes (ext. 1)
Pastoral Support: Phil Aijian (ext. 2)
Dir. Christian Educ.: Sarah Bolin (ext. 4)
Assoc. Children's Dir: Lelia Meadows
Assoc. Youth Dir: Ian Fletcher
Office Administrator: Sandy McIntosh (ext. 0)
Music Conductor: Connie Woodson
2nd Service Worship Leader: Sam Besse
Treasurer: Dorothy Ng (ext. 3)
Custodian: Nelson Orellana
Groundskeeper: Steve Fuller
Nursery Care Provider: Linda Weingarten

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